

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-42. (canceled)

43. (new): A particulate label which comprises a particulate support having a diameter of no more than 100 nm which particle is bound to at least three fluorophores, wherein each said fluorophore emits a detectable signal different from that emitted by the others and wherein the magnitude of each of said emitted signals provides a distinctive hue and wherein the magnitude of the signal emitted by each said fluorophore may be varied; and
wherein said particulate support is coupled to a reagent.

44. (new): The label of claim 43, wherein the particulate support is a latex bead.

45. (new): The label of claim 43, wherein the reagent is an antibody or fragment thereof, a peptide generated from a cDNA library, a substance in a combinatorial chemistry library, or an oligonucleotide.

46. (new): The label of claim 43, wherein the reagent is coupled to the particulate support by a covalent linkage.

47. (new): The label of claim 46, wherein the covalent linkage is a disulfide or carboxamide linkage.

48. (new): The label of claim 43, wherein the reagent is linked to the particulate support by a non-covalent linkage.

49. (new): The label of claim 48, wherein the non-covalent linkage is an epitope/antibody linkage, or

a histidine/chelated NI linkage, or

comprises an agar layer in which reagent is trapped.

50. (new): A spatially defined arrangement of particulate different labels of claim 43, wherein each label is characterized by a different hue, and each particulate support is bound to a different reagent.

51. (new): The arrangement of claim 50, which is displayed on a surface to permit determination of the spatial position of said labels.